

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 3057

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, MASS, SW, IN, US
SUBJECT: SWEDISH REACTION TO SECRETARY-BURENSTAM LINDER MEETING
ON VIGGEN

REF: STOCKHOLM 3006

1. MANY KEY GOS OFFICIALS, PARTICULARLY SENIOR MFA AND MILITARY SOURCES, HAVE NOT YET RETURNED FROM HOLIDAY, BUT EMBASSY HAS NEVERTHELESS BEGUN RECEIVING A GOOD CROSS-SECTION OF INFORMAL REACTION TO THE SECRETARY-BURENSTAM LINDER MEETING AND PUBLICATION OF THE US DENIAL OF APPROVAL FOR A VIGGEN SALE TO INDIA. THE AMBASSADOR, WHILE PARTICIPATING IN CEREMONIES OF THE VASA ORDER OF AMERICA HONORING ROBERT O. ANDERSON, HAD THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A GOOD EXCHANGE WITH AMBASSADOR WACHTMEISTER, WHICH APPEARS TO REFLECT THE CONSIDERED POSTURE THAT SWEDEN HAS ADOPTED. THIS IS A POSTURE OF KEEN DISAPPOINTMENT COUPLED WITH A DETERMINATION NOT TO BLOW THE DECISION OUT OF PROPORTION OR LET IT BECOME A CAUSE FOR A DETERIORATION IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. SENIOR SWEDISH OFFICIALS WE HAVE SEEN IN THE LAST FEW DAYS INCLUDING FOREIGN MINISTER SODER HAVE MADE CLEAR A CONTINUING FRIENDLY ATTITUDE TOWARD AMERICANS. THERE HAVE BEEN NO FURTHER PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY GOS OFFICIALS, AND MOST NEWSPAPERS HAVE CEASED TO COMMENT ON THE CASE. THE EXCEPTIONS, HOWEVER, ARE STOCKHOLM DAILY SVENSKA DAGBLADET AND SYD SVENSKA DAGBLADET OF
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MALMO, BOTH AMONG THE MOST TRADITIONALLY MODERATE AND PRO-US.

2. WACHTMEISTER DESCRIBED THE MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY AS "SERIOUS BUT FRIENDLY" IN WHICH THE POSITIONS OF BOTH SIDES WERE MADE CRYSTAL CLEAR. WACHTMEISTER THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT THAT THE MEETING HAD TAKEN PLACE AND EXPRESSED

APPRECIATION FOR THE SECRETARY'S WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE BURENSTAM LINDER. WHILE EXPRESSING GREAT REGRET OVER THE US DECISION, WACHTMEISTER SAID HE ALWAYS PREFERRED TO LOOK AHEAD RATHER THAN BACK. HE SAID THAT AMERICAN POLICY ON ARMS TRANSFERS TO SWEDEN, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS TO SWEDEN, AND SWEDISH ABILITY TO SUBSEQUENTLY RE-EXPORT AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY INCORPORATED INTO SWEDISH PRODUCTS WAS OF VITAL CONCERN TO THE GOS AND HE HOPED THAT USG DECISIONS REGARDING BASIC POLICY WOULD ELIMINATE FURTHER DOUBT AND CONFUSION. THE SAME THEME WAS FURTHER EXPRESSED TO THE AMBASSADOR BY MINISTER OF CULTURE WIKSTROM AND CHIEF OF PROTOCOL AMBASSADOR HEDIN AND BRIEFLY BY VACATIONING SECRETARY GENERAL LEIF LEIFLAND.

3. A CONSTANT CONCERN EXPRESSED BY MEDIA AND LOWER LEVEL MFA SOURCES ALSO RELATED TO FEARS THAT SWEDISH ABILITY TO EXPORT NEW TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS WOULD BE HINDERED IN THE FUTURE. A NUMBER OF CONTACTS, INCLUDING THE MANAGING EDITOR OF EXPRESSEN, THE LARGE DAILY THAT BROKE THE STORY OF THE TURNDOWN, HAVE ASKED IN PARTICULAR WHETHER THE US WOULD ALSO BLOCK A SALE OF THE VIGGEN TO AUSTRIA. (THE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON THIS POINT WOULD BE APPRECIATED AS NOTED IN STOCKHOLM 2989.) THE UNIFORM RESPONSE OF AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY OFFICERS TO THEIR GENERAL QUERIES HAS BEEN TO DESCRIBE THE EXISTING POLICY, EMPHASIZING THAT EACH RETRANSFER CASE, FOR EXAMPLE, CONFIDENTIAL

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MUST BE CONSIDERED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

4. A SVENSKA DAGBLADET ARTICLE OF AUGUST 5 HEADLINED "AGREEMENT FROM 1962 BROKEN BY THE US," IT ALLEGES THAT IN THE 1962 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEFENSE MATERIEL ADMINISTRATION OF SWEDEN AND THE US, THE DESIRE AND RIGHT OF SWEDEN TO EXPORT THE VIGGEN TO A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES INCLUDING INDIA WAS SPELLED OUT. IT FURTHER ALLEGES THAT "WHEN THE SWEDISH MINISTER OF TRADE REFERRED TO THE ABOVE-MENTIONED AGREEMENT . . . THE RESPONSE WAS THAT THIS CANNOT OVERRULE THE PRESENT GUIDELINES OF THE US." WHILE THE EMBASSY HAS NO COPY OF THE 1962 AGREEMENT, WE DOUBT SERIOUSLY WHETHER INDIA OR ANY OTHER EXPORT MARKET WAS MENTIONED THEREIN. BECAUSE THIS REFERENCE MAY BE RAISED AGAIN, HOWEVER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S CHECKING, POSSIBLY WITH DOD, TO DETERMINE THE VALIDITY OF THE SVENSKA DAGBLADET ALLEGATION. KENNEDY-MINOTT

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